

**CONTRIBUTION TO THE GENUS *RANOLUS* BLAIR  
(COLEOPTERA: DERMESTIDAE: RANOLINI), WITH NEW  
SYNONYMY AND COMBINATIONS**

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**Abstract**

The following new synonymy and combinations are proposed: *Ranolus* Blair, 1929 = *Orphilodes* Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005, **syn. n.**; *Ranolus australis* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005), **comb. n.**; *Ranolus malleecola* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005), **comb. n.**; *Ranolus minor* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005), **comb. n.** and *Ranolus papuanus* (Háva, 2015), **comb. n.**

**Introduction**

The genus *Ranolus* Blair, 1929 was originally described as a subgenus of *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802, with the sole species *A. (Ranolus) cavernicola* Blair, 1929 from Selangor, Malaysia. Háva and Kalik (2005) redescribed, illustrated and compared it with all other known genera belonging to the tribe Attagenini and considered it to be a separate genus. Háva, in Zahradník and Háva (2014) transferred it, along with *Orphilodes* Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005, to the new tribe Ranolini of the subfamily Orphilinae. A second species of *Ranolus* from Thailand was described by Háva (2014). *Orphilodes* currently includes three Australian species (Lawrence and Ślipiński 2005) and one from Papua New Guinea (Háva 2015).

**Subfamily Orphilinae LeConte, 1861**

**Tribe Ranolini Háva, 2014**

**Genus *Ranolus* Blair, 1929**

*Attagenus (Ranolus)* Blair, 1929: 382. Type species: *Attagenus (Ranolus) cavernicola* Blair, 1929: 382.

*Orphilodes* Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005: 236, **syn. n.** Type species: *Orphilodes australis* Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005: 240.

*Remarks.* When *Orphilodes* was described by Lawrence and Ślipiński in 2005, no comparison with *Ranolus* was made because *Ranolus* was then considered to be a subgenus of the more distantly related genus *Attagenus*. According to a recent study of both *Ranolus* and *Orphilodes* by the senior author, including an examination of the type species of the former, it appears that all included species of both nominal genera belong to one genus, the oldest name for which is *Ranolus*. All morphological characters (pronotal depressions, antennae, wings, male genitalia, legs, etc.) are identical. It may be noted here that in the original paper describing *Orphilodes* on the basis of adult species from Australia (Lawrence and Ślipiński 2005), the distinctive larva of the genus was also recorded from Sabah, close to the then known

range of *Ranolus* in Malaysia. The adult of *Ranolus australis* (Lawrence & Ślipiński) and a larva of an Australian *Ranolus* sp. are illustrated in Figs 1-2 and the following species are newly transferred:

*Ranolus australis* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005) (*Orphilodes*), **comb. n.**

*Ranolus malleecola* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005) (*Orphilodes*), **comb. n.**

*Ranolus minor* (Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005) (*Orphilodes*), **comb. n.**

*Ranolus papuanus* (Háva, 2015) (*Orphilodes*), **comb. n.**



**Figs 1-2.** *Ranolus* spp: (1) *R. australis* adult, dorsal; (2) *Ranolus* sp. larva, lateral.

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